

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim amendments and status:

1. (Currently amended) A system for securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout, comprising:
a payout dispenser, for securely storing and dispensing a payout;
a terminal, for controlling the dispensing of the payout, adapted to be connected to the payout dispenser and to interface with ~~an~~ a non-player attendant in connection with the payout;
and
a ~~network~~ communication link for interconnecting the payout dispenser and the terminal.
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gaming device ~~for indicating a payout payable responsive to the input of a person to whom the payout is payable,~~ connected to the payout dispenser and the terminal, and a network for interconnecting the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and wherein the system further comprises ~~comprising a device for enabling the dispensing of~~ a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses ~~in a~~ payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing a record of a system transaction.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the terminal includes ~~means for processing~~ a data processor.
6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising ~~means for containing the payout, adapted to be installed~~ a container that is installable in the payout dispenser.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a plurality of payout denominations.
10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal ~~network~~ communication link includes data lines.
11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal ~~network~~ communication link includes wireless connections.
12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal ~~network~~ communication link includes fiber optic connections.
13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises paper money.
14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises paper scrip.
15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises a coupon.
16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, claim 2, ~~wherein the payout indicating further comprising a non-gaming device comprises a gaming device for indicating a payout payable responsive to a winning game play of a person who is playing a game in the gaming device.~~ that indicates a purchase, gift, or award.
17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of ~~payout indicating~~ gaming devices at a single location.
18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device issues a transaction ticket for the payout.
19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device locks up and directs ~~the~~ a person to the terminal for the payout.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the ~~payout-indicating gaming device~~ includes means for ~~enabling connection of~~ connecting to the payout-indicating device network thereto.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising means for interfacing the payout dispenser to the terminal and to the ~~payout-indicating gaming device~~ network.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising means for interfacing the ~~payout-indicating gaming device~~ with the payout dispenser-terminal communication link network.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal communication link network further includes means for ~~enabling connection thereto of the payout dispenser, the terminal, and the payout-indicating~~ connecting to the gaming device network, and wherein the communication link is adapted to send and receive data therethrough.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 3, further comprising a ~~device for enabling the dispensing of a payout breakage~~ dispenser that dispenses in a payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the payout dispenser includes a plurality of containers ~~the containing means~~, each adapted to contain one of a plurality of payout denominations.

26. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a dedicated line.

27. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a TI line.

28. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a frame relay line.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the connection enabling means comprise a node.

30. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means are adapted to be mounted in the payout dispenser.

31. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means comprise an interface board.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device interfacing means comprise an interface board.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the ~~connection enabling~~ connecting means comprise a port.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 33, ~~further comprising means for enabling wherein the port to connect thereto for enables~~ sending and receiving data.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the port ~~connection enabling means~~ comprises a plurality of nodes.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of nodes are comprised of the ~~payout indicating gaming~~ device network, the ~~payout indicating gaming~~ device, the payout dispenser, and the terminal.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout, comprising:

a central station[[,]] for ~~centrally controlling~~ authorizing the dispensing of a payout, the central station including a central terminal;

a local station[[,]] adapted to be connected to the central station, the local station including:

a payout dispenser[[,]] for securely storing and dispensing the payout;[[,]] and

a local terminal[[,]] for controlling the dispensing of the payout, wherein the local terminal is adapted to be connected to the payout dispenser and to interface with ~~an a~~ a non-player attendant in connection with the payout; and

a communication link that interconnects network, for interconnecting the central station and the local station, wherein the communication link is adapted to interconnect the payout dispenser, the local terminal, and the central terminal.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further comprises a gaming device for indicating a payout payable responsive to the input of a person to whom the payout is payable, connected to the payout dispenser and the local terminal, and a network for interconnecting the payout indicating gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and the local station further comprises a device for enabling the dispensing of a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses in a payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

40. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further comprises a printer for printing a record of a system transaction.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the central station further comprises a central controller that controls for controlling the transmissions to and from transmissions between the central station and the local station.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the central terminal includes means for processing a data processor.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further includes a local controller that controls for controlling the transmissions to and from transmissions between the local station and the central station.

44. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising a plurality of local stations.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising means for containing the payout, adapted to be installed a container that is installable in the payout dispenser.

46. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout.

47. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout.

48. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a plurality of payout denominations.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the local terminal includes ~~means for processing a~~ data processor.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising ~~wherein the central station local station network includes~~ a central modem[[,]] for transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the local station.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising ~~wherein the payout dispenser terminal network includes~~ a local modem[[,]] for transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the central station.

52. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link ~~payout dispenser terminal network~~ includes a data line.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link ~~payout dispenser terminal network~~ includes wireless connections.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link ~~payout dispenser terminal network~~ includes fiber optic connections.

55. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises paper money.

56. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises paper scrip.

57. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises a coupon.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, claim 38, ~~wherein the payout indicating further comprising a non-gaming device comprises a gaming device for indicating a~~

~~payout payable responsive to a winning game play of a person who is playing a game in the gaming device.~~ that indicates a purchase, gift, or award.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising a plurality of ~~payout indicating~~ gaming devices at a single location.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising a plurality of ~~payout indicating~~ gaming devices at the location of each of the plurality of local stations.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device is adapted to issue a transaction ticket for the payout.

62. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device locks up and directs ~~the~~ a person to the local terminal for the payout.

63. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device includes means for ~~enabling connection of~~ connecting to the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device network ~~thereto~~.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for interfacing the payout dispenser to the terminal and to the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device network.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for interfacing the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device with the ~~payout dispenser terminal network~~ communication link.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38 wherein the ~~payout dispenser terminal network~~ communication link further includes means for ~~enabling connection thereto of the payout dispenser, the terminal, and the payout indicating~~ connecting to the gaming device network thereto, and wherein the communication link is adapted to send and receive data therethrough.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the local station further comprises a ~~device for enabling the dispensing of a payout breakage~~ dispenser that dispenses in a payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the ~~network~~ communication link includes means for connecting the central controller to the central terminal, the connecting means comprising an ethernet connection.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein the ~~network~~ communication link further includes means for connecting the local controller to the payout dispenser and the local terminal.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the payout dispenser includes a plurality of the ~~containing means~~ containers, each container adapted to contain one of a plurality of payout denominations.

71. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a dedicated line.

72. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a TI line.

73. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a frame relay line.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63, wherein the ~~connection enabling~~ connecting means comprise a node.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means are ~~adapted to be mounted~~ mountable in the payout dispenser.

76. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means comprise an interface board.

77. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device interfacing network connecting means comprise an interface board.

78. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein the ~~connection enabling~~ connecting means comprise a port.

79. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 78, further comprising means for enabling the port to ~~connect thereto for sending and receiving~~ send and receive data.

80. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein the port ~~connection~~ enabling means comprise a plurality of nodes.

81. (Currently amended) The system of claim 80, wherein the plurality of nodes ~~include are comprised of the payout indicating gaming device network, the payout indicating gaming device, the payout dispenser, and the terminal.~~

82. (Currently amended) A method of securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout [[,]] in a system which comprises a payout dispenser, ~~for securely storing and dispensing a payout, a terminal, for controlling the dispensing of the payout, adapted to be connected to the payout dispenser and to interface with an attendant in connection with the payout, and a communication link, network for interconnecting the payout dispenser and the terminal, wherein the method comprises comprising:~~

~~starting up the system; and storing the payout securely in the payout dispenser.~~
interconnecting the payout dispenser and the terminal though the communication link;
securely storing a payout in the payout dispenser; and
authorizing the dispensing of the payout from the terminal, wherein the terminal is adapted to be operatively associated with the payout dispenser via the communication link, and wherein a non-player attendant interfaces with the terminal in connection with the payout.

83. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, further comprising: ~~the terminal~~ controlling the dispensing of the payout from the terminal; [[,]] and dispensing the payout from the payout dispenser.

84. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, further comprising a gaming device for indicating a payout payable responsive to the input of a person to whom the payout is payable, connected to the payout dispenser and the terminal, and a network for interconnecting the payout indicating gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal, ~~further comprising generating the input of the payout payable person in the payout indicating device.~~

85. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, ~~wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a payout in a payout dispenser denomination,~~ further comprising:

~~a device for enabling the dispensing of a payout breakage in a payout breakage denomination smaller than the payout dispenser denomination; and wherein storing further comprises~~

storing a payout of a particular denomination in the payout dispenser; ~~and~~
storing a denomination smaller than the particular denomination in the payout breakage device; ~~further comprising~~
dispensing the payout of a particular denomination from the payout dispenser, and
dispensing the denomination smaller than the particular denomination from the payout breakage device.

86. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, ~~further comprising a printer for printing a record of a system transaction; further comprising printing a record of a system transaction in the~~ with a printer.

87. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the terminal includes ~~means for processing a data processor, and wherein the method further comprising comprises~~ controlling the dispensing of the payout ~~from the data processing means~~ using the data processor.

88. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, further comprising ~~means for containing the payout, adapted to be installed~~ a container that is installable in the payout dispenser, ~~and wherein the method further comprising comprises:~~

containing the payout in the container ~~payout containing means, and wherein storing further comprises~~

storing the container ~~payout containing means~~ in the payout dispenser.

89. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout, and wherein the method further storing comprises storing the payout in the payout dispenser housing.

90. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, ~~wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout; further comprising positively dispensing the~~ payout.

91. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a plurality of payout denominations, ~~and wherein storing further comprises storing a plurality of payout denominations, further comprising dispensing a plurality of denominations.~~

92. (Currently amended) A method of securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout[[,]] in a system which comprises a central station, ~~for centrally controlling the dispensing of a payout, including a central terminal; a local station, adapted to be connected to the central station, including a payout dispenser, for securely storing and dispensing the payout, and a local terminal, for controlling the dispensing of the payout, adapted to be connected to the payout dispenser and to interface with an attendant in connection with the payout, and a network for interconnecting the central station and the local station, adapted to interconnect the payout dispenser, the local terminal, and the central terminal, wherein~~ and a communication link, the method ~~comprises~~ comprising:

~~starting up the system; and storing the payout securely in the payout dispenser at the local station.~~

interconnecting the central station and the local station, wherein the central station includes a central terminal, wherein the local station includes a payout dispenser and a local terminal, and wherein the communication link is adapted to interconnect the payout dispenser, the local terminal, and the central terminal;

securely storing and dispensing the payout using the local station that is adapted to receive local payout authorization and the central station that is adapted to receive central payout authorization;

centrally authorizing the dispensing of a payout using the central terminal that provides central payout authorization; and

locally authorizing the dispensing of the payout using the local terminal, wherein the local terminal is adapted to be operatively linked to the payout dispenser, and wherein a non-player attendant interfaces with the local terminal, the non-player attendant providing local payout authorization in connection with the payout.

93. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, further comprising:
controlling the dispensing of the payout from the terminal at the local station, and
dispensing the payout from the terminal at the local station.

94. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the local station further comprises a gaming device ~~for indicating a payout payable responsive to the input of a person to whom the payout is payable, connected to the payout dispenser and the local terminal~~, and a network for interconnecting the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal, ~~and wherein the method further comprising~~ comprises generating the input of the a payout recipient ~~in from~~ the ~~payout indicating~~ gaming device at the local station.

95. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and the local station further comprises a ~~device for enabling the dispensing of a~~ payout breakage dispenser that dispenses ~~in a~~ payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination, and wherein ~~storing the method~~ further comprises:

storing a payout of a particular denomination in the payout dispenser at the local station;
[[, and]]

storing a denomination smaller than the particular denomination in the payout breakage device at the local station; ~~further comprising~~

dispensing the payout of a particular denomination from the payout dispenser at the local station; [[,]] and

dispensing the denomination smaller than the particular denomination from the payout breakage device at the local station.

96. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, ~~wherein the local station further comprises a printer for printing a record of a system transaction~~, further comprising printing a record of a system transaction in the printer.

97. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, ~~wherein the central station further comprises a controller for controlling the transmissions to and from the central station and the~~

~~local station~~, further comprising controlling the transmissions to and from the central terminal and the local station from ~~the~~ a central station controller in the central station.

98. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the central terminal includes means for processing data, and wherein the method further comprising comprises controlling the dispensing of the payout from the central station data processing means.

99. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, ~~where the local station further includes a controller for controlling the transmissions to and from the local station and the central station~~, further comprising controlling transmissions to and from the local terminal and the central station from ~~the~~ a local station controller in the local station.

100. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, further comprising a plurality of local stations, and wherein the method further comprising comprises dispensing payouts at the plurality of local stations.

101. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, further comprising ~~means for containing the payout, adapted to be installed~~ a container that is installable in the payout dispenser, and wherein the method further comprising comprises:

containing the payout ~~denomination~~ in the container ~~containing means; [,]~~ and ~~wherein storing further comprises~~

storing the container ~~containing means~~ in the payout dispenser.

102. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout, and wherein ~~storing comprises~~ the method further comprises storing the payout in the payout dispenser housing at the local station.

103. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, ~~wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout~~, further comprising positively dispensing the payout at the local station.

104. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a plurality of payout denominations, and wherein ~~storing the~~ method further comprises:

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storing a plurality of payout denominations at the local station; and, ~~further comprising~~
dispensing a plurality of denominations at the local station.

105. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the local terminal includes means for processing data, and wherein the method further comprising comprises controlling the dispensing of the payout from the local station data processing means.